

expressing himself in a note ('Schlesiens Wirbelthier-Fauna,' Breslau, 1833, p. 47) :—" *Rusticulus* (adject.) = *rusticus* ; *rusticula avis* Plin. Dagegen ist *rusticola* eine nach Sinn und Etymologie gleich falsche Bildung." And Naumann followed his example. In classical times *rusticula* was Latin for some kind of Partridge or Grouse, not merely the simple feminine of the adjective ; *e. g.* Pliny (Nat. Hist. x. 54), speaking of the gait of various birds, says, " *ambulant aliquæ, ut cornices ; . . . currunt, ut perdices, rusticulæ,*" &c. It is moreover obvious, upon the face of it, that no such word as *rusticola* ever existed. We certainly, then, want more evidence than I have hitherto come across to do otherwise than quote the specific name of the Woodcock as *Scolopax RUSTICULA*.

XLI.—*On a new Species of Rail from Macquarie Island.* By
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THE bird of which the following is a description was brought from Macquarie Island last March by a sealing expedition, and was presented to the Otago Museum by Messrs. Elder and Co. It is stated to be common on the south part of the island, but difficult to catch. The specimen, which was brought to Dunedin alive, is an adult female. It is a very interesting bird, combining the wings, tail, and general style of plumage of *Hypotænidia* with the bill and legs of *Ocydromus*. The sternum approaches that of *Hypotænidia*, and is quite different from that of *Ocydromus*. From *Cabalus modestus* it differs altogether. Perhaps it approaches *Rallus dieffenbachi* more than any other species ; but it is a smaller bird, with a longer wing, and the differences in plumage are considerable. If the drawing of the bill of *R. dieffenbachi* in the 'Transactions of the New-Zealand Institute,' vol. vi. p. 12, is correct, then our bird cannot be included in the same genus.

RALLUS MACQUARIENSIS, sp. nov.

General plumage dull brown, without any bright tints.

Top of the head dark brown, each feather slightly bordered with olive-brown; a broad streak from the base of the bill, through and below the eye, brown, passing into dark chestnut, washed with olive, on the sides of the neck; a streak from near the base of the upper mandible over the eye, enlarged backwards over the ear, grey; chin white; throat grey, passing into an indistinct transverse rufous band on the chest; breast grey, passing into dirty white on the abdomen. Feathers of the flanks black, with three white transverse bars, and tipped beyond the last bar with olivaceous brown, which forms the general tint of the flanks, unless the feathers are opened by the hand. Under tail-coverts olivaceous brown, the feathers black at the base, and a few of the central ones with white transverse bars. Back of the neck dark brown, tinged with rufous. Back dark brown, each feather rather broadly margined with olive-brown; some of the feathers on the upper part of the back with a small white spot, margined with black on each side. Primaries dark brown; the first margined externally with olivaceous brown, the inner web with five narrow white bands, which do not reach the shaft; the second with four rufous bars on the outer web, and five narrow white bars on the inner; remaining primaries with broad rufous bars on both webs, rufous being the predominant colour of the feathers, except near the tips. Secondaries like the primaries, but margined on both sides with olive-brown. Wing-coverts like the back, but the feathers more broadly margined with olive-brown; most of them with two or three white spots on each side. Under wing-coverts black, barred with white. Thighs brown. Tail dark brown, the feathers pointed.

Length 11·5 inches; expanse 16 inches; bill—culmen 1·14, height ·4, breadth ·3, length to gape 1·3; head 1·25; wing 5·5; tail 2·8; tarsus 1·4; hind toe (without claw) 1·4; inner toe 1; outer toe 1·05; hind toe ·37.

Irides brick-red. Bill and legs dusky brown. Bill rather shorter than the head, strong, conical, the culmen but little

arched, not concave over the nostrils. Tarsus as long as the middle toe without claw. Third primary the longest, slightly longer than the second and fourth; the first as long as the sixth. Claw on the wing rounded, pointed, slightly curved.

The sternum is long and narrow, slightly constricted below the costal border. Coracoids separated; anterior portion between the grooves slightly concave, smooth, without any median process. Five sternal ribs articulate to the sternum, and there is a sixth flying sternal rib. Lateral processes slender, parallel, produced considerably beyond the end of the sternum, not dilated at the ends; the keel strong, well developed, with a convex exterior margin. The scapula forms a right angle with the coracoid. Length 1·33 inch; breadth ·53; depth of keel ·35; length of coracoid ·78; length of scapula 1·32.

XLII.—*On Harpa novæ-zealandiæ (Gmel.)*. By F. W.

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As a help towards settling the disputed point as to whether there are in New Zealand one or two species of the genus *Harpa*, or whether there are two distinct races or subspecies included under *H. novæ-zealandiæ*, I have, for the last five years, carefully examined and measured every specimen belonging to that genus that has passed through my hands, and I now lay the results before the readers of 'The Ibis.'

The difference, if any, between the two species or subspecies appears to rest entirely on size. Dr. Buller says, "but for the manifest difference in size it would be impossible to distinguish the two birds" ('Birds of New Zealand,' p. 7).

Mr. Sharpe certainly says that the subspecies *H. australis** is "similar to *H. novæ-zealandiæ*, but smaller and more ashy

* *H. australis*=*H. brunnea*=*H. ferox*. Dr. Buller is mistaken in saying that the name of *H. ferox* has priority over *H. australis*, for *H. australis* was given in 1841, and *H. ferox* not until 1848 (see Sharpe, 'Catalogue of Birds').